

Case 3302***Buprestis sexsignata* Say, 1839 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence of the specific name over those of *Chrysobothris ignipes* Gory & Laporte, 1838 and *Chrysobothris germari* Gory & Laporte, 1838**

T.C. MacRae

Monsanto Company, 700 Chesterfield Parkway West, Chesterfield, Missouri 63017, U.S.A.

(e-mail: ted.c.macrae@monsanto.com)

Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the specific name *Buprestis sexsignata* Say, 1839 for a species of jewel beetle (family BUPRESTIDAE) by giving it precedence over its unused senior synonyms *Chrysobothris ignipes* Gory & Laporte, 1838 and *C. germari* Gory & Laporte, 1838.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; BUPRESTIDAE; *Buprestis sexsignata*; *Chrysobothris ignipes*; *Chrysobothris germari*; buprestids; jewel beetles.

1. Say (1823, p. 161) established the name *Buprestis sexguttata* (originally spelled *6-guttata*) for a species of jewel beetle (family BUPRESTIDAE) from Missouri and the Atlantic States, North America. Subsequently, Say (1839, p. 158) proposed the replacement name *Buprestis sexsignata*, noting that the name *B. sexguttata* was preoccupied by an 'American' species which he attributed to Herbst (now attributed to Brahm (1790, p. 141)), itself a junior subjective synonym of *B. ater* Linnaeus, 1767 (p. 663) (currently *Agrilus ater*) from Europe and a junior primary homonym of *B. sexguttatus* Thunberg, 1789 (p. 97) (currently *Agrilus sexguttatus*) from Africa. Although the paper containing Say's replacement name was read in 1836, it was not actually published until 1839. All subsequent authors have referred to this species as *Chrysobothris sexsignata* (Say, 1839). The species is common throughout eastern North America, and notes about its distribution and biology have been made by many authors including Knull (1920, p. 6; 1922, p. 82; 1930, p. 83; 1934, p. 208); Fisher (1942, p. 224); Hespenheide (1973, p. 185); Nelson & MacRae (1990, p. 352); MacRae (1991, p. 113) and MacRae & Nelson (2003, p. 65).

2. Gory & Laporte (1838, p. 50) established the nominal species *Chrysobothris ignipes* from 'Boston, Massachusetts' and *Chrysobothris germari* from 'North America'. LeConte (1873, p. 332) considered *C. ignipes* to be a synonym of *C. sexsignata* and *C. germari* to be possibly a variety of *C. solieri* Gory & Laporte, 1838 (a Palearctic species that LeConte mistakenly considered to be from Mexico). Kerremans (1892, p. 214) followed LeConte's synonymy for *C. ignipes* and also placed *C. germari* in synonymy with *C. sexsignata*. All authors subsequent to Kerremans (1892) have followed this synonymy including Chamberlin (1926, p. 171), Obenberger (1934, p. 651) and Fisher (1942, p. 224).

3. Since Say's replacement name was not published until 1839, it is a junior subjective synonym of both *C. ignipes* and *C. germari*. However, neither of these latter names has been used as valid after 1899 (*C. ignipes* since Gory & Laporte (1838) and *C. germari* since LeConte (1873)), qualifying them as nomina oblita under Article 23.9.1.1 of the Code. The name *C. sexsignata* (Say), on the other hand, has been fairly widely used for more than 150 years; however, its usage does not meet the requirements of Article 23.9.1.2 for declaration as a nomen protectum. This precludes an automatic reversal of precedence under the provisions of Article 23.9.2. Therefore this case is submitted to the Commission under Article 23.9.3.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the specific name *sexsignata* Say, 1839, as published in the binomen *Buprestis sexsignata*, precedence over the names *ignipes* Gory & Laporte, 1838, as published in the binomen *Chrysobothris ignipes*, and *germari* Gory & Laporte, 1838, as published in the binomen *Chrysobothris germari*, whenever *sexsignata* Say, 1839 and *ignipes* Gory & Laporte, 1838 and/or *germari* Gory & Laporte, 1838, are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *sexsignata* Say, 1839, as published in the binomen *Buprestis sexsignata*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the names *ignipes* Gory & Laporte, 1838, as published in the binomen *Chrysobothris ignipes*, and *germari* Gory & Laporte, 1838, as published in the binomen *Chrysobothris germari*, whenever *sexsignata* Say, 1839 and *ignipes* Gory & Laporte, 1838, and / or *germari* Gory & Laporte, 1838 are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *ignipes* Gory & Laporte, 1838, as published in the binomen *Chrysobothris ignipes*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *sexsignata* Say, 1839, as published in the binomen *Buprestis sexsignata*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;
 - (c) *germari* Gory & Laporte, 1838, as published in the binomen *Chrysobothris germari*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *sexsignata* Say, 1839, as published in the binomen *Buprestis sexsignata*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms.

References

- Brahm, N.J.** 1790. *Insectenkalender für Sammler und Oekonomen*. Universitätsbuchhandlung, Teil 1, 248 pp. Mainz.
- Chamberlin, W.J.** 1926. *Catalogue of the Buprestidae of North America north of Mexico*. 289 pp. W.J. Chamberlin, Corvallis, Oregon.
- Fisher, W.S.** 1942. A revision of the North American species of buprestid beetles belonging to the tribe Chrysobothrini. *United States Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publications*, No. 470: 1–274.
- Gory, H.L. & Laporte, F.L.N. de C.** 1838. *Histoire naturelle et iconographie des insectes Coléoptères. Monographie des buprestides*, vol. 2 (genera paged separately). Cuménil, Paris.
- Hespenheide, H.A.** 1973. Notes on the ecology, distribution, and taxonomy of certain Buprestidae. *The Coleopterists' Bulletin*, 27(4): 183–186.

- Kerremans, C.** 1892. Catalogue synonymique des buprestides decrits de 1758 à 1890. *Memoires de la Société Entomologique de Belgique*, **1**: 1–304.
- Knull, J.N.** 1920. Notes on Buprestidae with descriptions of new species (Coleop.). *Entomological News*, **31**: 4–12.
- Knull, J.N.** 1922. Annotated list of the Buprestidae of Pennsylvania (Coleoptera). *The Canadian Entomologist*, **54**: 79–86.
- Knull, J.N.** 1930. Notes on Coleoptera, No. 2. *Entomological News*, **41**: 82–86.
- Knull, J.N.** 1934. Notes on Coleoptera, No. 4. *Entomological News*, **45**: 207–212.
- LeConte, J.L.** 1873. Synonymical remarks upon North American Coleoptera. *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, **25**: 321–337.
- Linnaeus, C.** 1767. *Systema Naturae*. Ed. 12. vol. 1. part 2. Pp. 533–1327. Salvii, Holmiae.
- MacRae, T.C.** 1991. The Buprestidae (Coleoptera) of Missouri. *Insecta Mundi*, **5**(2): 101–126.
- MacRae, T.C. & Nelson, G.H.** 2003. Distributional and biological notes on Buprestidae (Coleoptera) in North and Central America and the West Indies, with validation of one species. *The Coleopterists' Bulletin*, **57**(1): 57–70.
- Nelson, G.H. & MacRae, T.C.** 1990. Additional notes on the biology and distribution of Buprestidae (Coleoptera) in North America, part III. *The Coleopterists' Bulletin*, **44**(3): 349–354.
- Obenberger, J.** 1934. Buprestidae 4, in: Junk, W. & Schenkling, S. (Eds.), *Coleopterorum Catalogus*, **143**: 782–934.
- Say, T.** 1823. Descriptions of coleopterous insects collected in the late expedition to the Rocky Mountains performed by order of Mr. Calhoun, Secretary of War, under command of Major Long. *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, **3**(1): 139–216.
- Say, T.** 1839. Description of new North American insects, and observations on some already described. *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, (2) **6**: 155–190.
- Thunberg, C.P.** 1789. *Dissertatio Entomologica Novas Insectorum species sistens*. No. 5, pp. 85–106. Upsaliae.

Acknowledgement of receipt of this application was published in BZN **60**: 262.

Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).